

## **REMARKS**

### **I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 2 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. New claims 7 and 8 have been added.

Claims 1, 3 and 5-8 are therefore presently pending in the case.

### **II. Support for the Amendment to the Specification and the Amended and Newly Added Claims**

The specification has been amended to include reference to the co-pending U.S. Application.

Claim 1 has been amended to specifically recite an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 80 contiguous bases of nucleotide sequence from SEQ ID NO:9, and to improve its clarity. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed, with particular support being found at least in claim 1 as originally filed and at page 6, line 5.

Claim 3 has been amended to remove reference to the sequence allowed in co-pending U.S. Application Number 09/969,532. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed, with particular support being found in claim 3.

Claim 7 has been added to specifically recite recombinant expression vectors comprising isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1. This claim finds support throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at page 14, lines 5-12.

Claim 8 has been added to specifically recite host cells comprising the recombinant expression vectors of claim 7. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least at page 14, lines 12-18.

It will be understood that no new matter is included within the amended specification or the amended or newly added claims.

### **III. Conclusion**

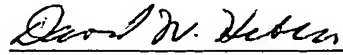
Applicants submit that the present case is in condition for allowance, and such favorable action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, or believe that certain amendments of the claims might serve to improve their clarity, a telephone call to the undersigned

Applicants' representative is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

March 11, 2004

Date



David W. Hibler

Reg. No. 41,071

Agent for Applicants

LEXICON GENETICS INCORPORATED

8800 Technology Forest Place

The Woodland, TX 77381

(281) 863-3399

Customer # 24231